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REMARKS

In this Reply, claims 38 – 42 were cancelled. With respect to the remaining claims, all of the claims, excluding claims 3, 12 and 21, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 5,594,720 (Papadopoulos et al.) in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,714,523 (Zeira et al.). With respect to claims 3, 12 and 21, those claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Papadopoulos et al. in view of Zeira et al. and further in view of the Leung reference (which no indication of the patent/application number was provided). Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn. The Zeira et al. patent (U.S. Patent No. 6,714,523) has a filing date of May 14, 2001 and an issuance date of March 30, 2004. The present invention claims the benefit of priority to U. S. Provisional Application No. 60/221,009 having a filing date of July 27, 2000 which is prior to the Zeira et al. filing date. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the final rejection with respect to these claims be withdrawn and the claims passed to allowance.

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Reconsideration and entry of this reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Pan et al.

Jefrey M. Glabicki

Registration No. 42,584

(215) 568-6400

United Plaza, Suite 1600 30 South 17th Street Philadelphia, PA 19103 JMG/pf

Volpe and Koenig, P.C.